

REMARKS

Claims 1, 4-9, 12-20, 23-28, 31-39, 42-47, and 50-69 are presented for examination. Claims 1, 9, 20, 28, 39, 47, the independent claims, have been amended to define still more clearly what Applicants regard as their invention. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

The most recent Office Action, dated August 25, 2004, rejected Claims 1, 7-8, 20, 26, 27, 39, 45, and 46 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,754,710 (*Sekine et al.*), and Claims 9, 15, 16, 19, 28, 34, 35, 38, 47, 53, 54, and 57 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Sekine et al.*, in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,131,057 (*Walowite et al.*).

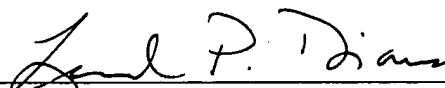
Applicants strongly believe that the claims as previously presented were patentable for the reasons set forth in the Remarks Section of the Amendment After Final Action. Nevertheless, without conceding the propriety of the foregoing rejection, Applicants have amended independent Claims 1, 9, 20, 28, 39, 47 in terms that even further clearly define what they regard as their invention. Applicants also submit the following additional comments.

As to Applicants comments at page 17 of the Amendment After Final Action regarding the Examiner's comment in paragraph 5 of the Office Action, Applicants have amended independent Claim 1, among other things, to delete the phrase "at least". Amended Claim 1 now indicates that the clamping of the output values depends on the comparison (i.e., comparing the number of colors represented by the plurality of input discrete sample values and the threshold value). Applicants submit, that for the same reasons as discussed in the Amendment After Final Action the language of amended Claim 1 is consistent with the language of the detailed description.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Leonard P. Diana", is written over a horizontal line.

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